



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS FOR VETERANS

Contact: Jerry Jones
Jaime Arteaga
Legislation and Public Affairs
916-653-2192
Fax 916-653-2611
July 18, 2005

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS NEW DIRECTIONS \$214,448 FOR HOMELESS VETERANS HOUSING REPAIRS

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson To Present Check Next Tuesday

New Directions, a licensed residential substance abuse and mental health treatment program for homeless men and women veterans, has been awarded \$214,448 by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to repair and rehabilitate their building. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson and an HCD representative will present a check to New Directions' Executive Director Toni Reinis on Tuesday, July 19, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at the program's location, 11303 Wilshire Blvd., VA Bldg. 116 in Los Angeles.

"The presentation of this check demonstrates Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's ongoing commitment to California's veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson. "Not-for-profit organizations like New Directions are the backbone of our state's commitment to breaking the cycle of homelessness among veterans and we are glad to be here in support of their efforts."

"These HCD funds will allow us to make some much needed improvements to our kitchen and other areas of our building," said Reinis. "We need our location to be in the best shape possible since we serve more than 800 clients a year and provide more than 600 meals a day to the veterans in residence."

The funds for this award come from HCD's Emergency Housing Assistance Program funds authorized by Proposition 46, passed by the voters of California in 2002. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has authorized the expedited release of these funds as part of his initiative to address homelessness. This program makes forgivable, deferred interest loans for the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of emergency shelters, transitional housing facilities or safe havens for homeless families and individuals.

"We at New Directions pride ourselves in placing about 130 veterans into jobs that pay livable wages," added Reinis. "We help them prepare to be good parents before returning them to wives, husbands, and children."

New Directions exists to provide drug and alcohol detoxification and rehabilitation, mental health services, food, clothing, shelter, job training, and a wide variety of services for homeless men and women veterans in Los Angeles County. This nonprofit agency is unique because it was founded by formerly homeless Vietnam veterans, works hand-in-hand with the local Veterans Affairs hospital, collaborates with other

substance abuse and mental health agencies, and has developed a strict but effective way of “veterans helping veterans” to break free of drug and alcohol use, and become contributing members of society once again. <http://www.newdirectionsinc.org/>

HCD is the State’s principal housing agency with expertise in providing affordable housing opportunities including shelters for the homeless through its policies and programs. <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/>

CDVA provides outreach to veterans reentering civilian life after having answered America’s call to military service, by helping them claim their earned veterans benefits, provides low-cost loans to acquire homes and farms, and when the time comes, provides aged and disabled veterans rehabilitative, residential, and medical care and services in home-like environments at the California Veterans Homes. www.cdva.ca.gov.

Individuals or organizations wishing to subscribe or unsubscribe to this service may contact us via email at newsforveterans@cdva.ca.gov or by telephone at 1-800-952-5626 or 916-653-2192. For more news and information of interest to veterans, visit our website at <http://www.cdva.ca.gov/>.